2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

000 inexhaustible energy had reduced me to a physical and nervous wreck—and I was the younger man.

361 Near Mukalla to the east beyond the landing ground at
346 Riyan is the collegiate town of Ghil-Ba-Wazir, so called by
249 me because it seemed to consist of nothing but schools sur-
439 rounded by a few fields of Hammumi tobacco which normally was exported to Egypt via Aden. Primary schools and a large
871 State Intermediate School with a considerable boarding establishment catered for the youth of Mukalla and the more
• [875] advanced pupils from all over the State. The masters, who were local men or Sudanese on contract, always left me with an impression of keenness, competence and contentment. From Ghil-Ba-Wazir the more promising pupils went on to Aden College or the Technical Institute in Aden, or to a Secondary School in the Sudan, depending on the inclination of the parents or of the Mukalla Government if they were financing the boys' further education.

315 Up in the vast open spaces of the northern limits of the State, survey parties of Petroleum Concessions Ltd. moved farther and farther into territory which was practically unknown to Europeans, on their ceaseless quest for oil, spurred on by recent increases in the cost of their prospecting licence. As these parties pushed their way northwards so did similar parties from the Arabian-American Oil Company at Dhahran on the Persian Gulf in Saudi Arabia move steadily southward with their portable drilling rigs drawn by great tractors and their air-conditioned living caravans, across the great yellow sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali.

712 The frontier became of considerable importance, much more
312 so than it had ever been before and we found it advisable to exercise a greater degree of control over our tribes than had
626 been necessary or desirable in the past. The Sultan was concerned about the peace of these northern marches, and, fearing an act of aggression, felt that steps should be taken to safeguard the well at Thamud, the only available water for many miles around. This was done by building a fort, constructing a landing strip and flying in a garrison of soldiers of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion. Later, similar measures were taken over to

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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648 bring if not plenty at least enough to the inhabitants, was pitifully small.

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178 In all rural areas education seems to be of secondary importance to the inhabitants and the Aden Protectorate was no exception to this rule. In 1931 there was scarcely a school to be found worthy of the name anywhere in the Protectorate outside the towns of Lahej and Mukalla. There were Koranic teachers in most of the villages and an elementary education in Arabic for those willing to pay was available in the larger towns from private tutors or the owners of small private schools.

[652] By 1956 there were one hundred and ten Primary Boys'
[648] Schools, five Primary Girls' Schools, and in addition there were six Intermediate Boys' Schools and one Lower Secondary School, and the States were contributing over £61,000 a year to the Protectorate Education Service while the United Kingdom contributed about £15,000. During the same year the Colony, with a population of 140,000, was spending £250,000 on their nineteen Primary Schools, ten Intermediate Schools and four Secondary Schools, including Aden College and the Technical Institute, but then they were well-to-do and it was their own money and they did not have to go cap in hand to the Treasury.

871 Still, in spite of everything, the progress was good and the
• 875 real problem in the Protectorate was not so much the lack of funds to build schools as lack of staff for the schools which had been built and were planned for the future. The Colony had not sufficient good men to staff their own schools and even if men had been available it would not have been possible to pay them an attractive wage without upsetting the wage scales

[648] of other State employees and thereby disturbing seriously the economy of the smaller States. Lahej had tried to solve the problem by importing Egyptian teachers, and they could only afford that luxury because the Egyptian Government subsidised this form of propaganda. It was not a policy that any sensible person would advocate, and I was convinced that the Sultan would one day regret bitterly that these political missionaries were ever imported.

The Quaiti State had been able to draw on the Sudan for

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

teachers to supplement and to train local talent and theirs was a happy choice, but unfortunately when men were wanted for States in the Western Protectorate no more were available. The Sudan could use every competent teacher in her own schools and was disinclined to release men for us even if they had been prepared to come, which was improbable.

The only solution was to make the most of local talent and this was done by Teacher Training Classes organised by the Director of Education in the Colony. The scheme is working well, but the demand for more and more men grows annually as that infectious disease, education, spreads rapidly through the whole of the Protectorate.

I am not writing a textbook and therefore I must keep away from figures as much as possible, but a few cold and concrete facts can often tell a story more clearly than pages of literary effort. This is so in the case of the Health Service. Twenty-five years ago nothing had been done and no real effort was made until after the World War. In 1956 there were five hospitals with a total of one hundred and ten beds, two of which were also Health Service Training Centres, and fifty-five Health Units or Dispensaries, as well as three Mission Clinics, and the States were spending at the rate of £28,000 a year compared with the United Kingdom contribution of £33,000 a year. I am afraid it does not sound very much, but it was in fact a tremendous advance. It sounds pitifully small when one realises that at the same time the Colony was spending £250,000 a year on their Health Service, to say nothing of the "Queen Elizabeth II" Hospital which will probably cost a million and a half pounds before it is completed. In fairness, however, it must be stated that the Colony Hospital was open to serious cases from the Protectorate just as the Aden College and Technical Institute had special facilities for Protectorate boys.

For many years the only medical assistance and treatment that the Protectorate people could obtain was from the Medical Officers of the Royal Air Force, and only then if they were close to a landing ground, and from the staff of the Keith Falconer Mission Hospital at Sheikh Othman who were always willing to travel into the Protectorate to care for the sick. Then

6:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

871 *Government Grants.* The basis of the grant was changed from one-third of approved expenditure to one-half of the teachers' salaries.

Scholarships. The Scholarship Committee was expanded from four to eight members and met six times to select scholarship holders for 1948 and for 1949. A noteworthy step forward was made with the despatch to England on scholarship of two male teachers on a one-year course, two others on a two-year handicraft course, whilst the Education Officer for the Colony began a one-year course at the London Institute of Education.

Education for Girls. Some progress beyond primary schooling was made in that a Standard V at Sheikh Othman and a Standard VI at Crater were opened, the latter as an incipient intermediate school and with a strong domestic bias.

875 Five Egyptian assistant teachers took the higher classes and the 874 Egyptian Senior Mistress was in charge of teacher-training. Very satisfactory work was done in the class-room, and in the needlework and cookery sections. A display of work was given in April.

Teacher-Training. Considerable progress was made with the training of women teachers. Three girls successfully completed a two-year course whilst two others completed a one-year training course in the Omdurman Girls' Training College where they did well in view of the previous low educational standards of Aden. These five girls will make it possible to create new classes early in 1949. Four other girls started training locally, and two more were sent on a three-year course to Omdurman. It is noteworthy that all these girls showed a definite enthusiasm for their work and a high sense of duty, and they did much to popularise the profession.

Six youths from the Government Upper Secondary School were put into training for one year and all but one completed the course satisfactorily. Three are now teaching in Government primary schools and two returned to a grant-aided school. This training put an extra burden on the Principal, but the situation improved at the end of the year with the arrival of the British Education Officer in charge of teacher-training.

875 *Teachers.* Meetings were held monthly and varied between discussions of professional problems and demonstration lessons. Many teachers from grant-aided schools attended.

The number of volumes in the Teachers' Library rose from a few dozen to 448. It is now housed in the temporary premises of the Teachers' Club as being more easily accessible to the profession than at the Departmental Offices.

[431] The bequest of Rs. 15,000 by an Indian citizen of Aden was allotted to the department for the creation of a club for all teachers, and building began towards the end of the year. An energetic committee was formed and meetings were held in temporary quarters at the Government Secondary School. This meeting-place for social and cultural purposes should mean a great deal to the profession.

A monthly Teachers' Journal began publication with a committee of teachers under the guidance of the Director of Education. It is issued free to teachers and contains news, articles and letters. The

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

general public began to take an interest also in this journal and arrangements were made for its public sale.

The deliberate action in sending useful men away on scholarship was to some extent offset by work done at the monthly meetings of teachers; but the standard remained low and will do so until men return to the schools from training locally and in the United Kingdom.

The first annual vacation course took place in August. All Colony teachers attended with many from grant-aided schools and some 20 men from the Western Aden Protectorate. The course concentrated on handwork of many kinds, and the fortnight was one of enthusiasm, hard work and pleasurable contacts.

Adult Education. The evening class for some 40 Arab women continued to meet in the Government Girls' School once a week, and girls of over school age met twice a week. Dressmaking and needlework were rather more popular with the adults, whilst the girls preferred Arabic. All these classes were conducted as before by the British Principal.

The Aden Commercial Institute provided evening instruction as usual in commercial subjects and in English, but the British Institute ceased teaching.

Technical Education. The Technical Instructor arrived early in the year and soon drew up syllabuses for both primary and secondary schools which were put into operation in the third term. He also conducted evening classes for teachers and took a leading part in the Vacation Course. In addition, he drew up preliminary plans for the Technical College destined to open in 1951.

Parents Committee. Very heavily attended meetings of parents were held at four centres early in the year to elect 14 members of a committee which met every six weeks to discuss matters concerning the well-being of the primary schools. The committee proved a most useful contact between the officers of the department and the public.

Five-Year Plan. This was presented to Government in March and received approval from the Secretary of State towards the end of the year. It provides for the building of three girls' schools which will embrace all stages from kindergarten to teacher-training, two more schools for boys, the Technical College and the Aden College. The latter takes the place of the Lord Lloyd College, so long talked of. The general effect is to double the places in boys' primary schools, to treble places in boys' post-primary schools, and to treble places for girls. Over the five years some 50 additional teachers will be required, but the situation at the end of the year was serious in that but one new man entered training instead of the ten needed at that stage.

HEALTH

During 1948 there was a further expansion in the activities of the Medical Department, particularly in the work of the Civil Hospital.

For the first time in the history of the department, a fully equipped and staffed X-ray department functioned for the whole year. Over 5,000

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

struction of extra classrooms which allow an intake of seven streams annually (at a maximum 38 girls per stream). This number however barely meets the demand for places. 871

The intermediate school standards rose and there was again a need for further classes which it should be possible to provide upon the return of further girls now in training at Omdurman.

Progress in the provision of post-primary schooling for girls has been maintained in spite of the difficulty of staffing. Between four and six Egyptian women teachers have always been in residence and their services will be required for some time yet. The parents of girls of good family still show a reluctance to allow them to enter the teaching profession. 875

Teacher Training

Applicants for training as women teachers exceeded the number required and provided an opportunity for selection and for the extension of the training course to two years. Responsibility for the training of 10 girls was shared amongst the Egyptian teachers. Of the Aden women teachers, 14 were trained in the Colony, and two in the Sudan ; the remainder were untrained. Two students will complete a three-year course at Omdurman in 1951, and two more in 1952, and it is hoped to send others.

Requests were received from the Protectorate for trained women to open girls' schools.

The Education Officer in charge of male teachers' training arrived in the Colony at the end of 1948, and properly organised annual courses are now provided. In each year 12 young men have been trained and there have been no failures. The course provides for a continuance of academic subjects, as well as method and periods of teaching practice. Young men now enter training not only from the higher classes of the Government Secondary School, but younger untrained men are also taken from the class-rooms of both Government and aided schools. As soon as possible this course will be extended into a second year.

Teachers

During the cooler months regular monthly meetings of teachers were held, to which the staffs of aided schools were invited. There were a series of demonstration lessons, of educational films and of general discussions. The Annual Vacation Course is now a regular feature of the teachers' year, and under the Grant-in-Aid Code compulsory attendance was extended to staffs of aided schools ; the number of teachers brought in from the Protectorate rose from 20 to 60.

The Teachers' Club is still in existence but was not supported as it should be. Lectures are generally poorly attended, and the library (now containing one thousand volumes) is insufficiently used. The Club tends to be frequented only by those men living nearby. The premises, the gift of an Indian merchant, were completed in 1949 and provide three rooms for games and study, with a compound for social gatherings, and is controlled by an elected committee of teachers.

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

875 204 The monthly teachers' journal completed its third year and was well run by a small committee of teachers. Its popularity is such that it was increased in size to eight pages, and a considerable number were sold to the public. It contains departmental and professional news, articles and world news.

875 No complaint in general could be made about the enthusiasm of teachers; there was a much better corporate feeling and a growing sense of professional prestige, but their cultural background remains poor.

Weekly meetings of all women teachers were held during the cooler months. Talks on general education were given by the Principal of the Government Secondary School, and lectures in method and games by the Egyptian teachers.

Building

653 871 Considerable progress has been made with the school buildings foreshadowed in the five-year Development Plan. Work has already begun on the Aden College and the Technical College has been completed. It is hoped that the former will be opened early in 1952 and the latter accepted students early in 1951. Two further girls' schools and a boys' school have been built in Crater and the boys' school at Maalla has been doubled in size. Extensions have been made to three other schools. As a result of these developments there are now 4,000 places available in Government schools compared with 2,000 in 1947.

Technical Education

874 This continued satisfactorily on the lines drawn up by the Principal-Designate of the Technical College, and two Arabs who had been on two-year technical scholarships in England returned in 1950 and assisted in the implementation of the new syllabuses of handwork and art.

Adult Education

873 Evening classes for women and girls were unfortunately not given during 1949-50 owing to shortage of Egyptian staff. Normally dress-making, knitting, embroidery and Arabic are taught. Classes should be resumed shortly.

Weekly talks were given at the British Institute. A privately-run commercial school provided evening instruction in commercial subjects and in English, but the British Institute ceased to hold classes.

Parents' Committee

871 Meetings of this committee were held every six weeks and many points of great value and interest were discussed. It continued to be a most useful contact between the officers of the Department and the public.

HEALTH

164 A steady improvement in the general state of the public health was revealed by the continued, in some cases marked, decline in the various health indices such as the death rate, infant mortality rate and the T.B. death rate.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

871 *Numbers of Schools and Pupils*

875 The number of schools in 1952 were :

Type of School	*Boys' Primary*	*Boys' Intermediate*	*Boys' Secondary*	*Girls' Primary*	*Girls' Intermediate*	*Girls' Secondary*
Government	6	1	2	4	1	—
Aided	8	5	2	7	4	2
Independent (recognised)	7	3	1	4	—	—

As at 31st March, 1952, there were 2,397 boys and 902 girls (with 129 teachers) attending Government schools ; 1,844 boys and 699 girls (with 104 teachers) attending aided schools ; and 891 boys and 178 girls (with 39 teachers) attending recognised independent schools.

Expenditure on Education

652 During the financial year 1951–52 £78,172 was spent by the Education Department of which £68,813 was recurrent expenditure. Grants-in-aid (recurrent) amounted to £7,346 and grants-in-aid (capital) to £8,952.

Studies abroad

658 In March, 1952, there were eight men and one woman studying in the United Kingdom and Ireland at the expense of Government ; in addition there were five private male scholars paying their own expenses but sponsored by Government. They are taking the following courses :

	Men	*Women*	*Sponsored Men*
Nursing . . .	3	1	—
Medicine . . .	3	—	—
Teaching . . .	2	—	—
Engineering . .	—	—	2
Law	—	—	2
Architecture . .	—	—	1

875 In addition, there were four girls studying at the Training College, Khartoum, two of whom returned during the year to teach.

Teacher Training

In 1952 no more than 12 men were under training of whom only eight were new to the profession ; the other four were withdrawn for training from Government or aided schools. The training curriculum was revised and the required standard of education at entry was raised. Girls go into training at a much earlier age direct from the Government Intermediate School after seven years of schooling and are easier to recruit though there is serious wastage through early marriage. One girl was under training during 1952.

To strengthen the local staff two Indian men teachers were employed at the Government Secondary School and three women teachers from Egypt at the Government girls' schools. Some aided and independent schools (notably the Gujrati school) import teachers, mainly from India.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

Further Education

Women. Classes were conducted in purdah conditions for Arab teachers and other Arab female adults in school premises. Women of various races also met weekly at a club run by the Women's Voluntary Services.

Men. The annual vacation course for Government men teachers was held ; of the 250 men present for the fortnight's course, 60 came from the Western Protectorate and some 30 from non-Government schools. The emphasis of the course was on craftwork.

Evening classes were again announced by the Education Department but so poor was the response that none came into being. A course for non-Arabs in Arabic was run successfully.

Libraries

The former British Council library of some 10,000 volumes was taken over by the Education Department and membership rose to 189 of whom 38 were Arabs, 52 Indians, 88 Europeans, nine Somalis and two Jews. Attached to the Library is a reading-room visited by some 350 people monthly. A number of Arab and Indian social clubs have small libraries. The library at the Teachers' Club was increased to about 1,500 volumes.

Activities among Teachers

Apart from the usual vacation course, monthly meetings of teachers were held, the theme being the use of the film in education. The monthly magazine, edited by a panel of teachers, reached its 42nd number ; it is most useful as a vehicle for advice and information. The committee of the Teachers' Club was active in promoting entertainments, talks, film shows, games, competitions and tea-parties for distinguished visitors to the Colony. The textbook committee, consisting of selected teachers from the Government primary and intermediate schools under the chairmanship of the Education Officer, met once a month to discuss the preparation of new textbooks suitable for Aden.

Teachers, particularly in the Government primary schools, concentrated much more on the better teaching of handwork ; much notable work was done in modelling and map-making. In the girls' schools the standard of cookery, needlework, dressmaking and flower-making are high.

Parents' Committee

The attendance at the annual meetings of parents to elect the new committees rose and considerable interest was shown in the reports presented. The committee continued to give most valuable assistance to the officers of the Department and constituted a useful means of communication with parents in general.

The Five-Year Plan

With the occupation of Aden College in April, 1952, (although the buildings were not complete and the grounds not ready) and of the